

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 072007
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:HWEINLAND:BA
APPROVED BY AF-WCHARROP
AF/E:KPGARLAND
NSC-TTHORNTON
S/S-O: JETHYDEN

-----066874 210328Z /70

R 210124Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 072007

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER CONCERNING THE HORN OF AFRICA

REF: LAGOS 3520

1. WE REGRET THAT BY OVERSIGHT TEXT OF OBASANJO FEB. 6
LETTER ABOUT THE HORN WAS NOT SENT TO YOU. TEXT FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE I WISH TO ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR MESSAGE WHICH WAS
DELIVERED ON THE 3RD OF FEBRUARY, 1978, THROUGH THE
AUSPICES OF YOUR EMBASSY HERE IN LAGOS. IN THE SAME
MESSAGE, YOU WERE KIND ENOUGH TO RAISE THE IMPORTANT
QUESTION OF THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. AS THE
CHAIRMAN OF GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION, SET UP BY THE
ORGANISATION OF AFRICAN UNITY TO LOOK INTO THIS MATTER,
I MUST THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT FOR OUR
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EFFORT IN THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THIS
PROBLEM.

3. IT IS PARTICULARLY GRATIFYING TO NOTE THAT YOUR GOVERN-
MENT ALSO CONSIDERS IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE THAT THE CONFLICT
BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY AFRICAN
PROCEDURES AND PRINCIPLES, DEVOID OF ANY EXTERNAL INTER-

REFERENCE. IN THIS REGARD, IT SHOULD BE EQUALLY APPRECIATED

IF THE UNITED STATES WOULD CONTINUE TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT AND REFRAIN FROM CONSIDERING ANY COUNTER STEP THAT MIGHT EVEN SLIGHTLY BE MISCONSTRUED AS AN ATTEMPT BY YOUR GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE, MILITARILY OR OTHERWISE, IN THE PRESENT CONFLICT IN THE HORN OF AFRICA.

4. WE BELIEVE THAT BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND SOVIET UNION HAVE A DUTY TO AFRICA THAT CAN BEST BE DISCHARGED THROUGH THE PRINCIPLES OF MUTUAL COOPERATION AND PEACEFUL DEVELOPMENT, WE ALSO RECOGNISE THAT BOTH COUNTRIES CAN ASSIST THROUGH THE LEGITIMATE EXERCISE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE INFLUENCE UPON OTHER FRIENDLY NATIONS. YOUR EXCELLENCY MAY THEREFORE LIKE TO KNOW THAT, RIGHT AT THIS MOMENT, I AM DEEPLY PREOCCUPIED WITH THIS QUESTION, TRYING TO ENSURE THAT BOTH ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA HAVE PROPERLY REALISED THE GRAVITY OF THE SITUATION AND THE THREAT WHICH THEIR CONTINUED CONFLICT MAY POSE TO THE PROGRESS AND STABILITY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, LET ALONE THE PROSPECT OF PEACE ON THIS CONTINENT. I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO REACH A JUST AND PEACEFUL SOLUTION CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHARTER OF OAU.
UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: PDIP, PPDC, PBOR, (OBASANJO, OLUSEGUN)
To: LAGOS
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